



**State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives**

**DONALDSON FAMILY
PAPERS, 1819-2005**

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:

Donaldson Family

Inclusive Dates:

1819-2005, bulk 1819-1889

Scope & Content:

The Donaldson Family Papers span the period 1819-2005 with the bulk of the materials encompassing the years 1819-1889. The collection is composed of an abstract of the title of the land belonging to the New York and New Orleans Coal and Iron Company, four account books, and a history of the Donaldson family. The materials in this collection relate to the William E. Donaldson Law Firm in Jasper, Marion County, Tennessee.

The abstract (Box 1, f. 1) is a brief description of title to the land belonging to the N. Y. & N. O. Coal and Iron Company. This is not the actual county land record but a summary kept by the William E. Donaldson Law Firm. One item of special interest is the Elizabeth Lowry Reservation. It is the first entry in the abstract and is dated June 23, 1819. The item states that she “intends to reside on her land” and asks that the Cherokee agent be notified of this. The Cherokee Treaty of February 27, 1819, allowed reservations for members. Each reservation was to be 640 acres square. The individuals given reservations had to notify the agent for the Cherokee nation, in writing, that they intended to reside permanently on the land reserved for them. Elizabeth Lowry was given a reservation in Tennessee.

The account books (Box 1, f. 2-5) contain a list of the firm’s client balance sheets. There are four indexed account books.

The genealogical materials (Box 1, f. 6) consist of printed matter, including a copy of “Donaldson Descendants.” This booklet details the descendants of

William Donaldson (b. ca. 1738), and was compiled by Jonathan Mitchell Sweat. "A Partial History of the Donaldson Family, 1734 to 1842" is also included in the genealogical materials. It was written by William E. Donaldson with edits by Elizabeth Donaldson Ketner, Louise Gardiner Dunham, and Jonathan Mitchell Sweat.

Physical Description/Extent:

1 microfilm reel, 16mm

Accession/Record Group Number:

Mf. 2011

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

Mf. 2011 (available only on microfilm)

Repository:

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

Administrative/Biographical History

William Edward Donaldson was born August 25, 1842. He was the son of William Donaldson (February 5, 1811 - August 31, 1884) and Ellen Morris (January 16, 1815 - June 7, 1864). Donaldson had three daughters: Ellen, Elizabeth, and Nannie. He joined the Confederate Army early in the Civil War, enlisting on April 17, 1861. Donaldson served in Company F, 1st Tennessee Infantry Regiment, C.S.A, under Col. Peter Turney. He was severely wounded in the thigh at Fredericksburg, Virginia, and his injury left him crippled for the rest of his life.

Source: Information in the biographical note was gleaned from various items within this collection and the Tennessee Confederate Pension Records.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

The arrangement of the collection is alphabetical by document type.

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:

No restrictions.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

While the Tennessee State Library and Archives houses an item, it does not necessarily hold the copyright on the item, nor may it be able to determine if the item is still protected under current copyright law. Users are solely responsible for determining the existence of such instances and for obtaining any other permissions and paying associated fees that may be necessary for the intended use.

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Donaldson, William Edward, b. 1842
Donaldson Family

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

New York and New Orleans Coal and Iron Co. (Tenn.)
William E. Donaldson Law Firm

Subjects:

Genealogy -- Tennessee
Law firms -- Tennessee -- Jasper
Lawyers -- Accounting

Document Types:

Account books
Genealogies

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:

This collection was loaned to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Betty Don Henshaw of Decherd, Tennessee, on December 12, 2011. The collection was microfilmed by TSLA and returned to the donor.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

William E. Donaldson Law Firm Collection, 1819-2005, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:

The collection was reviewed and prepared for microfilming by Lori D. Lockhart, February 6, 2012.

Existence and Location of Originals:

Held privately.

Electronic Location and Access:

<http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/mf2011.pdf>

DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

CONTAINER LIST

Contents/Item Title	Date	Box	Folder
Abstract	1819-1889	1	1
Account book	1882-1888	1	2
Account book	1885-1888	1	3
Account book	1887-1888, n.d.	1	4
Account book	1888-1889	1	5
Genealogical materials	1885, 2005	1	6